Search of Rail passengers luggage

2157. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the intensive search of the luggage of passengers travelling in Express trains, being carried out by the Railway Police between Delhi-Jhansi and Jhansi-Bhopal, so much that their personal belongings are scattered on the floor of the train, to great harassment of passengers, on the pretext of security checks; and

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by Government to check such practices by the Railway police and to find some scientific way of security checks, without causing any discomfiture to the travelling passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This Ministry has no control over the Government Railway Police which functions under the State Government concerned. Hence, complaints of such nature are referred to the State Government concerned for taking necessary action.

Sky Bus System by Konkan Railway

2158. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Konkan Railway proposes Sky Bus System in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh", appearing in the Asian Age, dated the 23rd February, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether detailed proejct report to establish the techno-economic feasibility of the proposed Sky Bus Metro Service has been carried out, in association with the concerned State Governments, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the proposed Sky Buses are likely to be pressed into service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) is pursuing Sky Bus System In various cities including Cochin in Kerala and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. For Cochin, two routes have been suggested *i.e.* Edapally to Vytilla and International Airport to Ring Route with 21.6 km. and 1.5 km. lengths at an estimated cost of Rs. 972 crores and 60.2 crores respectively. Similarly, for Hyderabad City in Andhra Pradesh State, 16 km. route is proposed for Sky Bus at an estimated cost of Rs. 544 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Preliminary Engineering-cum-feasibility survey report and estimates have been submitted for both Cochin and Hyderabad. The detailed contract has not been signed by KRCL with any State Government so far and therefore, no time frame can be given at this stage.

Slow progress of projects in South Central Railway

2159. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Central Railway could not spend even half of the funds earmarked for the Zone in the financial 2001-2002 on various projects;

(b) if so, the details of funds earmarked for various projects for gauge conversion, doubling of rail lines, new lines, flyovers and electrification;

(c) the details of financial and physical progress achieved so far, project-wise; and

(d) the reasons for the slow progress in completing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The Budget allotment, Revised allotment and Expenditure till Jan. 2002 of South Central Railway under the Plan heads New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Road Safety Works—Road over/under bridges and Electrification is as under:—

(Rs in cr)

Plan Heads	Budget Grant 2001-02	Revised Grant 2001-02	Actual Jan. 2002
New Lines etc.	65.10	33.05	9.66
Gauge Conversion	56.52	134.39	59.35
Doubling	46.00	96.83	40.31
Road Safety ROB/RUB	44.55	16.94	1.96
Electrification Projects	..	..	..